





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/hereditaryfounda00wash>



# Hereditary Foundations of America's Greatest Commoner—Lincoln



Recent Discovery of the English  
Origins of the Lincolns in America \*  
Direct Line of Eleven Generations to the Fifteenth  
Century \* Samuel Lincoln came to Salem, Massachusetts, from  
Hingham, England, in 1637 \* Migration of the Lincolns to Virginia and  
Kentucky \* Law of Eugenics Exemplified in the Character of Abraham Lincoln

BY

MABEL THACHER ROSEMARY WASHBURN

NEW YORK

Member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society—Author of *Lincoln's Ancestry*, and  
*Ancestry of William Howard Taft*—Editorial Staff of THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY

**I**NVESTIGATIONS into the origins of eminent Americans, who have entered into the building of the republic, are now being conducted under the auspices of THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY. Among the first of these are the interesting researches into the hereditary foundations of America's greatest commoner—Abraham Lincoln. This vigorous character in the development of American civilization is known almost wholly as a product of the most primitive life on the American frontier. Recent discoveries, however, carry him back through a direct line of eleven generations to the fifteenth century, showing how, generation by generation, he is the product of strong heredity.

Sociologists have found that back of every great event there is a *man*—and that man is the direct result of the progenitors who brought him into the world. He is constitutionally their product. Science now agrees that much of the intellectual and moral strength or weakness begins with heredity before it converges with environment, circumstance and self-development.

These scientific foundations must be considered, to secure the true estimate of the great figures of history. Not only Lincoln, but his compeers during the American Crisis, were from prototypes of generations of American perseverance, fortitude and character.

General Robert E. Lee was the product of centuries of culture and character, passing back through the American Revolution and the colonial epoch to the Privy Council of Charles I, and the third crusade of Richard Cœur de Lion, where one of his ancestors received the title of earl of Lichfield for gallantry at the siege of Acre in the crusades to Palestine.

General Ulysses S. Grant was the product of hardy Scotch foundations, which came to America in 1630, fighting their way through the old French and Indian wars at Lake Champlain, and the American Revolution from the first battle at Lexington, to later penetrate the wilderness of Ohio in the same way that the Lincolns went to the Kentucky frontier to blaze the way for civilization.

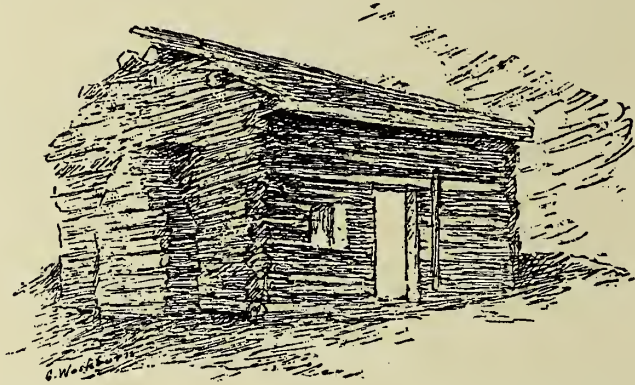
Jefferson Davis was the son of a founder of the American republic who first



R

## Recent Discovery of Lincoln Origins in England

stood as gunner in the American Revolution, and through his bravery, became a captain of infantry at the siege of Savannah. Investigations into the origins of men who rise to eminence, give a clearer understanding of the processes of human achievement. In the following pages an entirely new light is thrown on Lincoln, which allows one to better estimate the strange but fascinating individuality of this "plain man of the people."—EDITOR



Lincoln's  
Birthplace

THOSE unconvinced of the laws of heredity can imagine only a vague and curious interest in the subject of Abraham Lincoln's origin. The idea of "a self-made man" has become a shibboleth to large numbers of the American people, who have delighted to see Lincoln, unschooled, unpretentious, rising from obscurity to the nation's highest place by elemental force of character. But there must be some well-defined reason for character, whether it be heredity, circumstance or experience—there is an underlying law for everything in nature.

Unschooled he was, but not uneducated in any true sense. He was formed by biblical study upon which American civilization rested in its pioneer days for its world-history, law,

polity and science. Lincoln's deep reaching down into the principles of human law, as set forth in the American constitution and in the older legal systems, his mastery of the results of the centuries' experience were an intense mental discipline.

Unpretentious, bred in the ruggedness of hardship, as had been also his father and mother, it was truly the supreme power of Abraham Lincoln's personality which made him the leader of the people, the great American "Commoner."

But how much of personality is the result of special creation in the individual, how much is developed from environment, and how much comes to us from ages of transmission of myriad instincts, inherited from countless ancestors? These are the problems that await the solution of science.



## Heredity of America's Greatest Commoner

This element of heredity must, however, be considered more seriously in our sociological studies. The men and women who gave their love, their blood and their lives to the making of a man—their gift to America and the world—should be discovered, scrutinized and understood, if we are to have a just and adequate comprehension of the man they helped to produce.

Whether the Lincoln family was of Norman blood or the old Saxon stock is unknown. One of the earliest Lincolns of whom there is record bore the Saxon name of Alfred, but his family intermarried with Normans, and it is probable that he was of the conquering race, for he held many lands, which was not usual among Saxons in the first years after the conquest of England. Alfred de Lincoln, who was living in 1086, was followed in the lordship of his "great Lincolnshire barony" by his son, Alan de Lincoln. Another son was probably Thorold, who bore the office of sheriff. Thorold married a daughter of William Malet, one of the great nobles who came to England with William the Conqueror. It was to Malet that the body of Harold, the leader of the Saxons, was committed for burial after the battle of Hastings. Another Alfred de Lincoln was living in 1130. He was succeeded by his son, Robert, who in turn was followed by a third Alfred, living in 1165-66. Colswain de Lincoln was recorded in 1086, and his son, Picot, in 1111.

When the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln settled in County Norfolk, England, is not known. In the fourth year of King John's reign (1202 or 1203), Ivo de Lincoln figures in the "Pedes Finium" of the county, receiving for twenty pounds sterling a messuage in Lenn. In 1298, Thomas de Lingcole bestowed upon the Church of Saint Mary Cos-

lany at Norwich, a lamp, a candle, and "the rent of Colegate," for the service of the high altar. Adam de Lincoln, son of William, of Great Yarmouth, while with his wife, Johan, in London, February 3, 1289-90, received a grant from Walter de Wyndesore of the manor of Codesmor in Rutland, and of land in Essex. For these estates a certain yearly rental was to be paid until the death of Walter, after which a flavor of romance is brought into the formalities of the transaction, for thenceforth, in lieu of money payment, a rose was to be offered each year by Adam and Johan, or their heirs, to the heirs of Walter de Wyndesore.



Another early Lincoln in Norfolk was Sir John Lincoln, parish priest of Weeting, in 1387, whose title may have been one of courtesy rather than by right of birth, for "Sir" was not infrequently added to a priest's name in the Middle Ages in England. The name occurs frequently in various documentary remains of Norfolk in the sixteenth century. Nicholas Lincoln of Rollesby was fined three-pence, in 1507, for poaching in waters belonging to Padham Manor. In 1537, another Nicholas Lincoln was rector of Caistor-next-the-Sea.

During Queen Mary's reign, in 1555, one Clover, a schoolmaster of Diss, and three brothers named Lincoln started a little insurrection in Norfolk. It was soon suppressed and the four leaders hanged. The cause of their grievances, real or imaginary, is not clear. Norfolk as a whole had been loyal to the Catholic faith during the religious changes of Henry VIII and Edward VI and had joyfully welcomed the accession of Mary to the throne, so that it is not probable that this disturbance was over religious matters. It may, however, have sprung indirectly from the suffering which





## Recent Discovery of Lincoln Origins in England



had come to the poor and to farmers and tradesmen with the dissolution of the monasteries, from which resulted much bitterness of class feeling, born of the resulting hardships and the impotence of the people, clinging to the old order, crushed by the king's will. Probably in some cases this indignation turned to visionary dreams of more or less socialistic conditions of government. The Lincolns were scattered throughout the county, but Hingham, Swanton Morley, Carbrooke and Norwich are the Lincoln homes of most interest to Americans, for in them lived the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln.

The line of Abraham Lincoln, so far as it has already been brought to light by recent researches in England, is as follows:

I—The earliest known ancestor was Robert Lincoln of Hingham, Norfolk. He probably was born in the fifteenth century, as he had a grandnephew living at the time he made his will, April 18, 1540. His wife was Johan, and their son was Robert, also of Hingham.

II—This second Robert died in January, 1555-56, when his will was made and proved. By his marriage with Margaret, he had a son, Richard.

III—Richard Lincoln married four times. His first wife was Elizabeth Remching of Carbrooke, and at his marriage with her he made legal provision that certain land inherited from his father, Robert Lincoln, who, in turn, had received it from his father, Robert, senior, should pass upon his own death and that of his wife to the heirs of their marriage. This matter became an important one in the life of their son, Edward Lincoln, who was the father of the immigrant-ancestor of Abraham Lincoln. The second wife of Richard was a widow, named Hobbs; and his third wife was Margery Dunham, also a widow.

He next married still another widow, Anne Smale, whose maiden surname was Bird. She was of the Bird family of Great Witchingham, who bore arms blazoned as follows:

Arms: Argent, a cross patonce between four martlets gules, a canton azure. Crest: Out of a coronet, a demi-greyhound salient proper.

In his will, January 3, 1615-16, Richard Lincoln called himself "of Swanton Morlie," but he was buried at Hingham on December 23, 1620. In many ways his will is an interesting document. He bequeathed certain sums to Hingham Church, to the poor of Hingham, of Swanton Morley, and of Great Witchingham—his wife's home. He provided for the bringing up of his youngest son, Henry, "unto litterature and good education," and there were legacies to his godchildren, as well as to members of his family.

Although the youngest son, Henry, was not in the line of Abraham Lincoln, it is of some interest to note that he was called in later legal documents both "Yeoman" and "Gentleman." The humbler title was clearly not considered in those days as incompatible with gentleness. And "Gentleman" bore then, as still in arms-granting countries, a definite meaning understood of all. Gentlemen were those who had the right, either by inheritance or by direct grant, to bear coat-armor. It is beyond doubt, therefore, that the Norfolk Lincolns, ancestors of Abraham Lincoln, possessed a coat-of-arms.

There are seven known blazons of coat-armor under the name Lincoln or Lincolne. They are as follows: (I) Argent, a leopard rampant sable. (II) Or, a leopard rampant sable, armed argent. (III) Azure, a lion rampant sable, gorged with a ducal coronet or. Crest: A lion rampant as in the arms. (IV) Gules, a lion rampant or. Crest:



## Heredity of America's Greatest Commoner

Out of a ducal coronet or, a demilion proper, crowned with an antique crown of the first. (V) Azure, on a cross vert an estoile pierced argent. (VI) Argent, on a cross azure five mullets or. (VII) Quarterly, per pale indented, or and gules; in the first and fourth a cross of five lozenges of the second. This last coat-of-arms was of the Lincolne family of Dorsetshire and Somersetshire in the time of Richard I.

IV—Edward Lincoln was the sole surviving son of the marriage of Richard Lincoln and Elizabeth Remching. He was not mentioned in his father's will and it is probable that an estrangement had arisen between father and son in connection with Richard Lincoln's fourth marriage. This supposition is based on a suit in chancery brought against Edward Lincoln by his half-sisters, children of this fourth marriage. The occasion of this suit was the desire of the guardians of these young girls—for they were minors at the time—to win for them possession of the land which, as stated above, Richard Lincoln had arranged should go to the heir of his marriage with Elizabeth Remching. It is the documents in this suit which contain the proof of Abraham Lincoln's four generations of English ancestry—Robert, Robert, Richard, Edward—and the credit for discovering this evidence belongs to two men, an American and an Englishman, Mr. J. Sidney Lea and Mr. J. R. Hutchinson.

Whether Edward Lincoln's defense of his patrimony was successful is unknown. Little further is recorded of him. That two of his sons were apprenticed to learn the weaver's trade indicates that he was unable to maintain the social position of his ancestors. His burial in Hingham churchyard is recorded February 11, 1639-40. No trace of his

wife's name has been found, but they had eight children. Thomas, the eldest son, came to America in 1633, and settled in Hingham, Massachusetts, about 1635. Daniel Lincoln, another son, came also to the same settlement. Neither he nor Thomas left issue, and Samuel, the third of the three brothers who came to this country, was, therefore, the American ancestor.

V—Samuel Lincoln, son of Edward, was baptized in Hingham, England, August 24, 1622. As was the custom among the middle classes in England, and in those families whose loss of property obliged them to depend upon trade for their living, rather than on the income from land—whether as farmers or landlords—Edward Lincoln had apprenticed his youngest son, while still a child, to learn the weaver's trade. He was bound as apprentice to Francis Lawes of Norwich and it was with him that he came to America. They sailed from England April 8, 1637. Samuel is described in the shipping list as "Samuell: Lincorne: aged 18 yeares." This would make his birth about 1619. He was for some time at Salem, Massachusetts, perhaps serving his apprenticeship with Francis Lawes. Eventually, he settled in Hingham, where his two brothers already were living. Here he followed his weaver's trade, bought land, and founded the family which was to give America one of her two greatest presidents.

There is a curious likeness between the vicissitudes of the Lincolns of Norfolk, England, and those of their American descendants. A family of the lesser gentry, apparently, living quietly on their own land, the father of the three brothers who came to the New World was obliged to relinquish for his children the social position which they would naturally have held but for the fall of his fortunes—a





## Recent Discovery of Lincoln Origins in England

fall brought about, seemingly, by the estrangement from his father, Richard Lincoln. Had Elizabeth Remching, Edward Lincoln's mother, lived until his manhood, his career and that of his children would doubtless have been very different. So in the case of Thomas Lincoln, the father of the president, as will be seen, the circumstances of his early orphanhood, with the consequent loss of any share in his father's property, brought about the hard and rough conditions of his own life and the early years of his age.

VI—To Samuel Lincoln and his wife, Martha, among their eleven children was born Mordecai Lincoln, June 14, 1657. He removed from Hingham to Scituate, Massachusetts, where he was a prosperous and esteemed member of the community. He owned iron works and grist and saw mills. Mordecai Lincoln died in 1745. His first wife was Sarah, the daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Whitman) Jones.

VII—Their son, Mordecai, left Massachusetts and went to Monmouth County, New Jersey, where he married Hannah, the daughter of Richard and Sarah (Bowne) Salter. Later he removed to Coventry, Chester County, Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in the iron industry. He died at Amity, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, in 1736. That he had been able to maintain the social traditions of his ancestry is clear from the fact that he was dubbed "Gent." in the inventory of his estate.

VIII—John Lincoln, the eldest son of Mordecai Lincoln and Hannah Salter, was living at Cærnarvon, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in 1748, but removed to Augusta County (now Rockingham County), Virginia, where, in 1768, he bought six hundred acres of land. His wife was named Rebecca, and one of their

sons was Captain Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president, born in Pennsylvania, July 16, 1739.

IX—Captain Abraham Lincoln was captain in the Virginia militia. He fought in the Revolutionary War, and it may have been his soldier-life as well as the impulse—strong in so many of Lincoln's ancestors—to probe with pilgrim-staff or hew with the axe of the pioneer the secret of the wilderness, which led Captain Lincoln, near the close of the war, to sell his Virginia lands and make his way over the mountains into the wilds of Kentucky.

Captain Abraham Lincoln married, first, Mary Shipley, whose sister, Nancy, became the wife of Joseph Hanks, and the mother of Nancy Hanks, President Lincoln's mother. He married, second, Bathsheba Herring, and she was the mother of his youngest son, Thomas. When Captain Lincoln sold his large Virginia estate for five thousand pounds, and when he became the owner of two thousand acres of land in Kentucky, he no doubt felt as secure of his children's protection from poverty as of his own. Little did he dream that his youngest son would have no share in the broad acres by himself reclaimed, probably to a great extent from the wild forests by a gallant struggle with nature, fighting for her own, and with the savages, helping their mother to keep out the stranger. But Captain Lincoln was murdered by the Indians, his property passed to one or both of his elder sons, and the youngest, Thomas, then about five years old, was left a helpless little child without parents (his mother seems to have died before her husband, but the date is unknown), and apparently without any kinsfolk who cared what might be his fate. It was Captain Abraham Lincoln's sudden



## **H**ereditary of America's Greatest Commoner

death, during Thomas' childhood, and the consequent loss of protection and property, which made the life of Thomas, President Lincoln's father, the laborious struggle which it was, unbrightened by the relief which education and cultivated tastes may bring.

X—Thomas Lincoln was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, January 20, 1780. So far as can be learned, he was utterly neglected by his two half-brothers, who were young men at the time of their father's death, and he grew to manhood with apparently no care or education except that bestowed by the sisters of his father's first wife—Lucy Shipley (Mrs. Richard Berry), and Elizabeth Shipley (Mrs. Thomas Sparrow). It was Mrs. Berry who brought up Nancy Hanks, daughter of her sister, Nancy (Shipley) Hanks, and the love which was consummated by the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks probably began with the children's hours of play beneath Mrs. Berry's kindly roof.

They were married at Mrs. Berry's home, June 12, 1806, by the Reverend Jesse Head, a Methodist minister. Nancy Hanks has been described as of medium height, fair-haired, gentle and sweet. Thomas Lincoln was very strong, and famous through the countryside as a great wrestler. His son inherited from him his fondness for this sport. Thomas is said to have been rather short and thick-set, with dark hair, gray eyes, and a prominent nose. This last feature was inherited also by his son.

Thomas Lincoln had studied carpentry with Joseph Hanks, Nancy's brother, and while he had neither the means nor the opportunity for an education such as would have been his, without doubt, if his father had lived, he was not at all the letterless boor usually depicted by most of the

biographers of President Lincoln. The signature on his marriage bond is clearly and well written. Before he was twenty-five, he had saved enough money to buy a farm—land destined to fame as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. This farm was at Buffalo, on the border line between La Rue and Hardin counties, Kentucky, where the Lincoln Farm Association dedicated a memorial shrine May 30, 1911. When Abraham was about four years old his parents moved to a large farm of two hundred and thirty-eight acres at Muldraugh's Hill. Here he had his first schooling, save that which his mother had given him, from Zachariah Riney, a Catholic schoolmaster of the pioneer Kentucky days.

In 1816, Thomas Lincoln was appointed road-surveyor from Nolin to Bardstown, but the next year the family left Kentucky and made a new home near Gentryville, in Spencer County, Indiana. To us this removal seems a tragic mistake, for the living in the new settlement was hard, as all pioneer life must be, save in tropical climates, and to the hardships was added an epidemic of malarial fever. To this, Nancy Lincoln's delicate, worn spirit succumbed, and here she died, October 5, 1818.

Thomas Lincoln's second wife was Mrs. Sarah (Bush) Johnston, a widow, whom he had known as a girl in Kentucky. She brought to the little frontier home, which had been without a woman's care for over a year, much of ordered comfort and welcome cheer, for she was a good woman and lovingly fulfilled to Thomas Lincoln's children the service of mother-care which she had undertaken. No children were born of this marriage. Sarah Lincoln died near Charleston, Illinois, in 1869, her home, where she died, having been a gift from her loved and loving step-son, Abraham Lincoln.



## Recent Discovery of Lincoln Origins in England

In 1823, Thomas Lincoln became a member of the Baptist church, a society of that denomination then being formed in the neighborhood of his home. Those who knew him have said that he was an earnest and devout Christian, as were President Lincoln's mother and his step-mother. That a year passed before a funeral ceremony was held for Lincoln's mother was but a sad evidence of the necessary isolation of the Western settlers. It was her loving little son of nine years, the son to whom his mother's sweet memory was always a holy inspiration throughout his after-career of fame and sorrow, who wrote the pathetically childish appeal to the Reverend David Elkins, the minister, who journeyed a hundred miles to hold a Christian service over Nancy Lincoln's grave. About the time when Abraham Lincoln attained his majority, the family moved to Illinois, finally settling at Goose Neck Prairie, Coles County, where Thomas Lincoln, an old man of seventy-three, died in 1851.

The foregoing outline of Abraham Lincoln's ancestry in the line of his surname shows, of course, but one strain of the many which mingled in his blood. Without going into detail, the following notes may serve to distinguish some of the other families of his lineage.

The element of personal sympathy is mingled with our thoughts of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Lincoln. A gentle spirit, bravely enduring the hardships of her life until death gave her victory, our pity and affection go out to her and make more vivid the pathetic aspect of her story. Bereft of father and mother, we fancy her a sad little child growing up in the rough surroundings of a pioneer settlement; then as a serious and charming young girl, married to a frontiersman, Thomas Lincoln, who

lacked the education she had managed to acquire; and later, a fragile mother, falling wearily to death as though to sleep, worn out with the harshness of life—the toil, which had been her lot as the wife of a fighter of the wilderness. Nancy Lincoln seems herself to have been forced into a forlorn struggle with nature and circumstances, a struggle in which she yielded her life.

The efforts, both of Lincoln's enemies and of many of his friends, to convince his countrymen that his origin was of the utmost obscurity, and that in technical gentleness he had no part, have fixed firmly in many persons' minds the idea that his mother's family was as lowly as—they unjustly contend—was his father's. To those who have accepted this opinion, it will perhaps be surprising to learn that the Hanks family of England were gentry, with right to bear coat-armour. The Hanks arms are blazoned: Bendy of six, azure and or, a chief ermine. While proof has not been found that these arms belonged directly to the ancestors of Nancy Hanks, the theory of the social insignificance of the lineage is thus upset.

Another coat-of-arms was granted September 6, 1580, to a mayor of Chester, named Hanke. This was: Gyronny of eight, azure and gules, a wolf rampant or.

Investigations seem to prove that Nancy Hanks is descended from a family living in Malmesbury, Wiltshire, in the sixteenth century. Benjamin Hanks was the immigrant-ancestor, who was in Pembroke, Massachusetts, at the beginning of the eighteenth century. His son, William, removed to Virginia, and was the father of Joseph Hanks. He was living in Amelia County, Virginia, in 1747. Joseph Hanks made his will, May 4, 1793. In it he



## Heredity of America's Greatest Commoner

speaks of his "Wife Nanny" and his "Daughter Nancy." Nancy Shipley was his wife, but it may have been a second marriage, for the daughter, Nancy, was born in 1784. This would make Joseph Hanks a very old man, if he was the same Joseph who sold land in Amelia County, in 1747, then a grown man.

Both of Nancy Hanks' parents died when she was a child and she was brought up in the home of her aunt, Mrs. Richard Berry, as noted above. She was twenty-two years old when she married Thomas Lincoln, and but thirty-four when she died. To her it is probable that Abraham Lincoln owed much of the patient strength which helped him through the agonies of his country's struggles.

Abraham Lincoln's grandmother, Mrs. Joseph Hanks, was a Shipley. The Shipleys were an old family in Leicestershire and in Hampshire, England. The Hampshire branch bore the following coat-armor: Arms: Lozengy, argent and sable, a bordure of the last. Crest: Out of an earl's coronet or, the bust of a Moorish prince proper, habited of the first, wreathed about the temples argent and sable. Motto: *Nec placida contenta quies est.*

It is believed that the Virginia Shipleys came from Leicestershire. Robert Shipley, the father of Nancy Hanks' mother, who married Joseph Hanks, owned over three hundred acres in Lunenburg County, Virginia, but after the Revolution he and his wife, Sarah Rachael, and their family were among the many Virginians who at that time braved the perils of "The Crossing" and founded new homes and, eventually a new state—Kentucky.

Practically all Lincoln's ancestral families were pilgrims and pioneers, and this was surely not without pur-

pose in his making. They followed truth as they were able to see—afar off, perhaps—its light. Some, wayfarers for liberty, marched bravely along perilous ways for the right to live as freemen. Some, perhaps, had in their hearts that one red drop of blood which beats to the road-call, the world-call, the song of the wilderness. In Lincoln was the patient Pilgrim—surely the lover of freedom—and that touch of kinship with wood-folk and forest-ways, which made him understand animals, love children, and which, alas, may have made him uncomprehended, unloved by the world-bound, too spoiled by an artificial and corrupt standard to revere his simplicity.

Abraham Lincoln's grandmother, the wife of Captain Abraham Lincoln, was Bathsheba Herring, the daughter of Leonard Herring of Heronford, Rockingham County, Virginia. It was the researches of Mr. Lea and Mr. Hutchinson that established the Herring connection with the Lincoln family. Leonard Herring was the son of John, who is said by family tradition to have been a younger son of an English family to which belonged Thomas Herring, archbishop of Canterbury in the eighteenth century. The latter bore arms: Gules, three lucies haurient argent, between nine cross crosslets or. He was born in County Norfolk but seems to have been related to the Heron family of Croydon, Surrey, where the archbishop died. The coat-of-arms of the Croydon Herons was: Gules, a chevron engrailed between three herons, close, argent. Crest: A heron close, argent.

The great-great-grandmother of Abraham Lincoln was a Salter. Richard Salter was a notable lawyer of Monmouth County, New Jersey, in 1687. In 1695, he became a member of the House of Deputies,



**R**

## Recent Discovery of Lincoln Origins in England

and in 1704, a member of the Assembly of Representatives. His legal achievements won for him the high office of chief justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. In military service he held the rank of captain. Captain Salter married Sarah Bowne, and their daughter, Hannah, became the wife of Mordecai Lincoln.

Among the Lincoln progenitors are the Bownes. William Bowne came from Yorkshire to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1631, with his wife, Anne, and their son, John, who was Lincoln's ancestor. Salem was scarcely a "city of peace" to those whose minds and temperaments were not cast in the mold of the Puritans. The passion of the time for forcing souls and bodies into a harsh prison-house of uniformity made the little settlement a seething whirlpool of sects and enmities. Half-crazed perhaps, by persecution, the Quakers, it is said, ran naked through the streets. The Baptists vainly protested against the intolerance of those who themselves had fled to New England for conscience' sake. In following the records of those days, the modern descendants of the Puritans seem to be looking at a gloomy Ibsen play viewed from the comfortable security of the orchestral chairs of our twentieth century *laissez faire*—or perhaps an Ibsen play combined with a blood-and-thunder melodrama—thrilling at the Indian massacres, appalled by the desolate horror of witchcraft, alternately indignant at the cruelty, and pitiful to the terrors which perhaps were a cause of the cruelty. But let us not forget, in the revolt of sensibilities made tender not so much by Christian tolerance, perhaps, as by indifference to the value to souls of right thinking, that the Puritans were men and women of splendid valor, who dared peril of sea and savage fury, and the

blighting rigor of life in a northern wilderness, for the sake of a principle which, although it was afterwards shadowed by cruelty and persecution, was high and holy in so far as it recognized the paramount rights of eternal principles over human governments and personal opinions.

About 1645, a little band of Quakers and Baptists shook from their garments the unfriendly dust of Salem and began their pilgrimage for conscience' sake to Gravesend, Long Island, then under Dutch rule. Among these wayfarers for the rights of the soul was one of the most interesting figures which pass across the stage of our colonial history—the Lady Deborah Moody, recognized by the authorities as the chief of the proprietors at Gravesend, a valiant woman, strong in the will to do and to suffer for her Quaker faith.

To Gravesend with the Salem exiles came the Bownes, William Bowne being named as one of the seven patentees, in 1670, he was a magistrate of Gravesend, in 1657. In 1663, a colony from Gravesend settled in Monmouth County, New Jersey. The "Monmouth Patent" was granted April 8, 1665, and two of the twelve grantees, John Bowne and Obadiah Holmes, were ancestors of Lincoln. William Bowne, the father, was not one of the original grantees, but he received land two years later at Portland Point in Monmouth County, and died there, in 1677. One of his sons, James, was a deputy to the General Assembly and a judge. Another, Andrew, became deputy-governor of New Jersey, in 1699, and governor of East New Jersey, in 1701. Major John Bowne, the eldest son of William and Anne Bowne, was born in England, probably in Yorkshire. He has been called "the most prominent citizen of the county [Monmouth],



## Heredity of America's Greatest Commoner

esteemed for his integrity and his ability." He was a deputy to the Assembly and was major of the Monmouth County militia. His wife was Lydia Holmes, and their daughter, Sarah Bowne, married Richard Salter, as recorded above.

Abraham Lincoln had in him also the blood of the Holmes. The Reverend Obadiah Holmes was a man of extraordinary ability in many directions. He was of scholarly education, a zealous preacher, a worker in glass, and, as the events of his life prove, enterprising and courageous, with the qualities which make for success in business, and he was possessed of a capacity for leadership in public affairs which won for him high place in the government of the Rhode Island colony. He probably was an Oxford graduate, as in an account of his life which he wrote in 1675, he says that his parents sent three sons to that university. In this account he mentions a brother, Robert Holmes.

The result of researches in England of the ancestry of Obadiah Holmes, made known by Colonel J. T. Holmes recently, show that the American immigrant was baptized at Didsbury, near Manchester, Lancashire, March 18, 1609-10. On November 20, 1630, he married Katherine Hyde in the Collegiate Church at Manchester. His name is not found among lists of Oxford students but two of his brothers matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford; John in 1625, and Samuel in 1632-33. The father was Robert Hulme (not Holmes) of Reddish, in the parish of Manchester. He made his will August 11, 1602, and it was proved January 28, 1604-5. His wife was Alice, and she was buried at the Collegiate Church of Manchester, September 7, 1610.

In 1639, Obadiah Holmes, with

his wife, Katherine, and their son, Jonathan, came to Salem. In 1646, he removed to Rehoboth, and about this time, probably, he adopted the tenets of the Baptists. In 1650, he was accused of holding house-to-house meetings on Sunday, and, in 1651, he was arrested, sent to Boston for trial, and there sentenced to receive thirty lashes. His specified offences were baptizing on Sunday and praying with his hat on. In his "Diary" he describes the suffering he endured in this punishment, which he refused to escape by the payment of a fine. In 1652, he became minister of the Baptists at Newport, Rhode Island. He served as commissioner for several years, was sent as a deputy to the General Court, and was one of the most eminent men in the Colony.

Obadiah Holmes seems to have been imbued with that *wanderlust* which impelled so many of Lincoln's ancestors to leave the old country for the New World, and organize settlements here for the wilderness. In 1664, he was at Gravesend, Long Island, with Lady Deborah Moody's settlement. In 1665, he became a patentee of the new settlement in Monmouth County, New Jersey, though he did not settle there, as did his family. He returned to his old home in Newport and died there, in 1682. Lydia Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Katherine (Hyde) Holmes, married Major John Bowne, and their granddaughter, Hannah Salter, married Mordecai Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln's heredity includes that of the Jones and Whitman lines. Thomas Jones was one of the first settlers of Hingham, Massachusetts. Abraham Jones, Lincoln's ancestor, is believed to have been the son of this Thomas. Abraham was born in 1629, and was living in Hull, Massachusetts, in 1657. In 1689,





## Recent Discovery of Lincoln Origins in England

he was a deputy to the General Court. He died in Hull, in 1718. His wife was Sarah Whitman, the daughter of Ensign John Whitman, who was made a freeman of Weymouth, in 1638, was deacon of the first church of Weymouth, and was an extensive landholder there. Sarah Jones, the daughter of Abraham Jones and Sarah Whitman, married Mordecai Lincoln, son of Samuel Lincoln, the immigrant-ancestor.

The Lincoln lineage traces directly to the Remchings of England. Richard Remching was Lord of Carbrooke Manor, Norfolk, in the sixteenth century. He died in March, 1567, and was buried in Carbrooke Church. In his will, dated March 12, 1566-67, he mentioned his daughter, Elizabeth, who later became the wife of Richard Lincoln, and the grandmother of Samuel Lincoln, the American immigrant-ancestor. The wife of Richard Remching was Elizabeth; her maiden surname is unknown. Her will, made April 14, 1595, and proved May 24th of the same year, is an interesting human document. It is the last will and testament of a kindly old woman, speaking her affection for her family—son and daughter, grandchildren, the son-in-law and daughter-in-law—and many of the quaintly worded bequests show a most feminine appreciation, even in the solemn hour of death, of her "gowne which cam from London," her pretty kirtle of "silk grogorane," and "petty-coat with a red silke frynge." To be sure, this note is sobered by the many "little prayer bookes" bequeathed as precious legacies, the bequests to numerous ministers, and the "booke called Beza, his testament" which was to go to one of the granddaughters together with "one saye gowne with a velvet cape."

But one grandchild received no

token, no last loving thought. Edward Lincoln, son of her dead daughter, Elizabeth, then a young man of twenty, was as completely ignored in his grandmother's will as he was in that of his father. We may account for the father's forgetfulness by the jealous influence of the step-mother but this very estrangement would—one would naturally think—have made closer and warmer the ties between Edward Lincoln and his mother's kinsfolk. In those troubled times, when households were so often divided because of religious strife, was it perhaps some such matter which brought about the isolation of a boy, who sorely needed kindness of kin, from those whose place it was to befriend him?

The Remching connection with Abraham Lincoln's English ancestors was discovered by Mr. J. Sidney Lea and Mr. J. R. Hutchinson.

This, then, is the story in outline of some of the men and women to whom America owes a part of Lincoln's greatness. It is not a story of kings and nobles, of brilliant achievement glowing against a splendid background. It is a history of English families of gentle blood, of hardy American pioneers, of men and women who lived their lives simply, bravely, and truly, who bequeathed to Lincoln something of that ardent flame of loyalty to an idea that was his, as well as the tranquil courage which can meet death but never surrenders.

These investigations may disprove the popular fancies of his lack of "gentle" lineage but they should not make him in the eyes of any American less truly a man of the people in the best sense and the truest. He loved all humanity, and gloriously manifested his love for his people, since he died a martyr that we might be preserved a nation.